

Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 17-20 have been added while claims 1, 2, 4-10, 13, 14, and 16 have been amended. Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance as set forth more fully below.

Interview Summary

The undersigned participated in a telephone interview on March 3, 2005 with the Examiner. During the interview differences in subject matter of the present application and the cited references were discussed. Namely, it was discussed that the present application provides for a remote module to communicate with a network management system over one network, where the network management system is communication with another network to obtain port identifiers. Additionally, it was discussed that the present application provides for the remote module to also communicate with a client over an external third network in order to provide a display of the identifier information to the client. Deficiencies in the Bosa and Hammerstein references were discussed relative to a remote module communicating with the network management system over one network and then providing the display of the identifier over another external network. It was discussed that the Bosa reference discloses communication only within the local network of the network management system and that there is no remote module providing display of the identifier over an external third network. It was discussed that Hammerstein discloses a remote FRAD but this corresponds only to the connection of a management system that is remote from the first network without providing for the management system communicating with a remote module that then displays the identifier over an external third network.

102 Rejections

Claims 1, 2, 9, 10, and 13 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Hammerstein (US 6,292,495). Additionally, claims 10-15 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Bosa (US 6,115,362). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections relative to the claims above.

Amended claims 1, 10, and 13 now include recitations relating to the remote module communicating with the network management system over a second network, where the network management system is in communication with a first network. These claims also include recitations to the remote module displaying identifiers of the first network over an external third network. As a representative example, claim 1 recites a system for remotely displaying network configuration information for a first network that comprises at least one virtual connection, wherein the virtual connection has an endpoint associated with an identifier and wherein a network management system communicates with the first network to store the identifier, the system comprising a remote access module for communicating with the network management system over a network connection via a second network to obtain the identifier, and for remotely displaying the identifier over an external third network.

As discussed above in the Interview Summary, Hammerstein fails to disclose a remote module which communicates over a second network with a network management system to obtain identifiers of the first network. Furthermore, Hammerstein fails to disclose a remote module that displays the identifier over an external third network. The remote FRAD 64 of Hammerstein appears to correspond with a network management system that is remote from and in communication with a network having the identifiers. However, there is no disclosure that the remote FRAD 64 includes or is in communication with a remote module that then displays the identifier over an external third network. Furthermore, Hammerstein appears to only show one network that includes the identifiers and does not disclose a remote module in communication with a network management system over a second network. For at least these reasons, claims 1, 10, and 13 are allowable over Hammerstein.

Also as discussed above, Bosa fails to disclose a remote module which communicates over a second network with a network management system to obtain identifiers of the first network. Furthermore, Bosa fails to disclose a remote module that displays the identifier over an external third network. Bosa includes a network management system in communication with a first network, and possibly other networks, for the purpose of gathering identifier information from them. Furthermore, Bosa includes a user interface for generating displays within the network management system.

However, Bosa does not disclose that there is a remote module in communication with the network management system over a second network. Additionally, Bosa fails to disclose that there is a remote module that displays the identifier over an external third network. For at least these reasons, claims 10 and 13, as well as claim 1, are allowable over Bosa.

Dependent claims 2-9, 11-12, 14-15, and new claims 17- 20 depend from allowable base claims and are also allowable over Hammerstein and Bosa for at least the same reasons.

103 Rejections

Claims 3-8 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hammerstein in view of Venkatraman (US 2001/0044836). Claim 16 is rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hammerstein. Applicants also respectfully traverse these rejections relative to the claims above.

In relation to claims 3-8, these claims depend from an allowable base claim and are also allowable for at least the same reasons. In relation to claim 16, this claim includes recitations similar to those discussed above in relation to claims 1, 10, and 13 and is also allowable for at least the same reasons noted above.

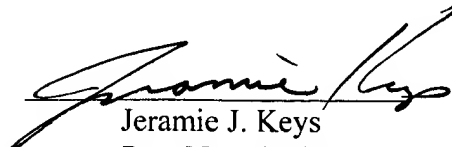
Conclusion

Applicants assert that the application including claims 1-20 is in condition for allowance. Applicants request reconsideration in view of the amendments and remarks above and further request that a Notice of Allowability be provided. Should the Examiner have any questions, please contact the undersigned.

No fees are believed due. However, please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-3025.

Respectfully submitted,

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